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Climbing the socioeconomic ladder: Essays on sanitation and schooling

Melinda Vigh

As recently as in 2015, almost 10 percent of the world's population did not have access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, which are necessary for a healthy life. This dissertation investigates whether a behavior-change oriented intervention in the community can provide a solution for increasing sanitation coverage, especially when the program also provides clean drinking water. The selection of the program locations provides a dilemma between learning from the program and targeting the communities where the program may provide the most value. When the second option is chosen, evaluating the impact of the program becomes more complicated. Chapter 2 discusses an approach to deal with this problem. Access to education is important for socioeconomic prosperity and at the same time better-off families are more likely to educate their children. Chapter 4 investigates whether intergenerational educational mobility, or providing equal access to education to children of all backgrounds, increases economic prosperity in India.

Climbing the socioeconomic ladder
Melinda Vigh

